

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2012

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting at 6:00 P. M. Thursday, March 8, 2012, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

Members present

Dean Campbell, Chair

Genia Blackwell, Vice Chair

Rodney Ashcraft, Councilman

Willie Bright, Councilman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Others present

Lynn Strom, County Administrator

Crystal Coleman, Finance Director

Jennifer Gilley, Clerk to Council

Michael Medlock, County Attorney

and others as per list attached

Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by County Attorney Michael Medlock. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was then recited. Chairman Campbell introduced Crystal Coleman as the new Finance Director.

Approval of the March 8, 2012 Council Agenda

Motion for approval of the March 8, 2012 Council agenda was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 3, 2012 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the February 7, 2012 County Council minutes (regular meeting) was made by Councilwoman Bright, seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from the public

No comments.

Reports

No comments.

Old Business

1. Consideration of appointment to Board of Assessment Appeals.
Motion for appointment of David Whatley to Board of Assessment Appeals was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2012

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

2. First Reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-649, "An Ordinance Amending Sections 8-49, 8-50 and 8-51 of the Edgefield County Code of Ordinances to provide for certain fees to be collected pursuant to Chapter 8 thereof, and to provide that such fees shall be set by Resolution of the County Council rather than being set forth by Ordinance; providing the initial fees to be set; and for other related matters."

Lynn Strom explained that the ordinance would increase the Building Permit Fees and that a new copy of this ordinance was at each Council Member's seat tonight to make one correction. In the original ordinance the commercial plan review fees were left out inadvertently. The new copy provided tonight included the information concerning the commercial plan review fees. She also explained that by passing this ordinance in the future a resolution would be needed to revise the building permit fees instead of another ordinance. Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance Number 11-12-649 was made by Councilwoman Blackwell, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Dorn voting against.

New Business

1. Appointment to Upper Savannah Council of Governments.

There is one seat vacant on this board and the seat has to be filled by a Council Member. Chairman Dean Campbell expressed his wishes to fill this seat if Council had the same desire.

Motion for appointment of Chairman Dean Campbell to Upper Savannah Council of Governments was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Ashcraft. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of the 2012 Strategic Plan.

Chairman Campbell said that this Strategic Plan has been developing for the last 6 months with help from over 30 steering committee members. He then introduced Mr. Roger LeDuc to speak about the plan. Mr. LeDuc stated that the input at the meetings held was very encouraging and he was satisfied with the goals that were developed for the 2012 Strategic Plan. The two main areas of focus in the plan are Foundation for the Future and Building for Tomorrow. Mr. LeDuc said that two members of the steering committee would be discussing the goals in the strategic plan and briefly explaining why those goals are important areas of focus. He then introduced Mr. Will Williams to go over the goals in the Building for Tomorrow section of the plan. They are 1) Improve the Infrastructure in Edgefield County, 2) Strengthen and Improve the Edgefield County Airport, 3) Refine and Create New Development Standards, 4) Foster a stronger relationship between the County and existing Industries, 5) Improve the Business Community in Edgefield County, and 6) Strengthen and Improve our Tourism. Mrs. Donna Livingston was the second speaker. She read the goals for the Foundation for the Future section of the plan. They are 1) Create a Trail System throughout Edgefield County, 2) Strengthen and Improve our Recreation Program, 3) Develop an Intern/Educational program for Developing Needed Worker Skill Sets, 4) Evaluate ways to get information to County residents, 5) Improve our Public Safety

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2012

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

throughout Edgefield County, 6) Strengthen our medical community, 7) Establish a funding mechanism for new facilities, programs and infrastructure in Edgefield County. Chairman Campbell stated that Mr. Williams and Mrs. Livingston gave a short summary of the strategic plan, but that the plan itself contained very detailed short and mid-term goals and the completion dates for each goal.

Motion to approve the 2012 Strategic Plan was made by Councilman Ashcraft, seconded by Chairman Campbell. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of guests

No guests.

Comments from public

1. Gloria Bynum

Mrs. Bynum started by saying that she had two concerns to present to Council. The first concern was updating the welcome sign as you enter the Town of Edgefield. She believes that it needs to be repainted. Chairman Campbell explained that this is a Town issue and that County Council could not update these particular signs. Her second concern was regarding Highland Avenue Extension. She stated that years ago the County Council voted to maintain this road by putting gravel down. She says now that there is heavy traffic down this road and it needs to be paved because there are too many puddles. Chairman Campbell said that we would check into this and be sure that the road was actually supposed to be maintained by Edgefield County. Mr. LeDuc stated that this road would not be paved for at least several years due to the CTC money being tied up with bridges and other safety concerns. Chairman Campbell stated that the County would have to do more research on this request before they could answer any other questions.

2. Betty Butler

Mrs. Butler stated that she wanted to commend the Strategic Plan and those that helped develop the plan. She also stated that she would like to see more information available on the County's website in regards to the Recreational Programs, especially the meeting times.

County Administrator report

Mrs. Strom started by saying that we have started the E-911 Center project and we hope to see construction in the next month or so. She also informed Council that the radio bid that was approved did not include the sales tax. This would make the price \$5,400 higher, but that we were still under budget by approximately \$4,000 dollars and Underground Technologies was still the lowest bidder. She stated that Council would be filling several board seats in April. One citizen has requested speed bumps be placed on his dirt road to slow down the traffic and she stated that the County would be looking into this issue, but no decisions have been made yet. Mrs. Strom and Crystal Coleman have met with all of the department heads regarding budget and a draft will be available for Council next week. The Planning Commission moved their meeting to March 13, 2012 for this month. Mrs. Strom said that we are waiting on the Developer for the Developer's Agreement for the Sewer MOU that was recently passed. She stated that plans are being drawn up and revised for the animal shelter. She also included that Saluda County may be interested in joining in with our new animal shelter. If they are interested and decide to join, she will present Council with an agreement before anything takes place. She closed with saying that she and Roger LeDuc met with the Concerned Citizens of Northside and Force Protection

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2012

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

about the blasting. She said that all blasting is under the State Fire Marshall's jurisdiction and that the State would put up monitors to be sure the blasts are within regulations. She did say that Force Protection is permitted correctly under the state regulations and that Force Protection does keep the appropriate logs of blasting information.

Comments by County Council Members

Councilman Dorn had several comments. He started by saying that every year he has a problem with the audit because they (Elliott Davis) bring the booklet with all of the finance information just minutes before the meeting. He said that there is no way to have good questions. He also stated that Keisha Bryant, the Tax Assessor, has been working with the County for a number of years and ever since she started working here people have complained non-stop. He stated that no one complains about the Treasurer, Building and Planning and other offices in Edgefield County. He said that he believes Mrs. Bryant is under attack and people that buy a \$250,000 house should not expect to pay third world taxes on the house. He stated that he believes she would not have moved if someone hadn't urged her into this position (GIS Manager/Grant Writer) because she really doesn't want to be there. He said that he believes that there are a few people on Council that make the decisions and he said that he doesn't need to know about anything after the fact if he isn't included in the beginning. He finished with the fact that he and Councilman Bright had been going to Hilton Head every year and the "new" Council has cut this trip since it is an unnecessary expenditure. He doesn't understand why Edgefield County is spending \$800 on insurance for the Calliham Building, but will not send him to classes.

Comments by County Council Chair

Chairman Campbell stated that the Listening Tour would begin this month. These four meetings will be held outside of the Council Chambers to better reach the citizens of Edgefield County. The first two meetings will be held the same night, the first will be Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the Trenton Town Hall with the second meeting to follow at 7:00 PM in the Johnston Town Hall. The third meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 6:00 PM at Old McDonald's Fish Camp located at 355 Currytown Road, North Augusta, SC 29860. The fourth meeting will be held at McKendree Life Center on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 7:30 PM. He also reminded everyone that there is a Budget Work Session scheduled for March 22, 2012 at 6:00PM in the Council Chambers. Chairman Campbell recognized Mr. Roger LeDuc for his hard work and dedication to Edgefield County as well as welcomed Mrs. Lynn Strom as the new County Administrator.

Adjourn

Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

Notice of this meeting was provided to Edgefielddaily.com, The Citizen News, and The Edgefield Advertiser.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL

March 8, 2012

6:00 PM

County Council Chambers

Edgefield County Council

Dean Campbell, Chair

Genia Blackwell, Vice Chair

Rodney Ashcraft, Council Member

Willie C. Bright, Council Member

Norman Dorn, Council Member

ATTEST

Jennifer L. Gilley, Clerk to Council